

REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 31, 2005, in which Claims 1-7 were rejected. Claims 1-5 have been amended; and new Claim 8 has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 112

Claims 2, 3, and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to obviate this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,879,578 (*Hisajima*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention. According to the invention of Claim 1, there is provided an apparatus for changing the direction of transport of a sheet by about 75 degrees to about 90 degrees. The apparatus includes a first flat guide for contacting the leading edge of a sheet having a sheet surface transported along a path to change the direction of transport by an acute angle, and a second concavely curved guide spaced from the first guide for contacting the leading edge of the sheet to change its direction of transport by an acute angle wherein the change of direction of transport by the first and second guides totals about 75 degrees to about 90 degrees. The second guide includes a curved segment providing accumulation of the proper amount of sheet required to change the direction of transport of the sheet by about 75 degrees to about 90 degrees. The first and second guides only contact the leading edge of the sheet during the change in direction of transport.

Claim 2 adds a first single driven roller located adjacent to an end of the first guide for transporting the sheet towards the second guide, while preventing contact of the sheet with the first guide.

Claim 4 adds a second single driven roller spaced from the second guide and located below the first single driven roller, for contacting the surface of the sheet as it is guided by the second guide to assist in overcoming the beam strength of the sheet to allow the continued turning of the sheet.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are deemed both novel and nonobvious over the cited references and should be allowed since *Hisajima* does not disclose the following elements of these claims:

1) a curved segment on the second guide providing accumulation of the proper amount of sheet required to change the direction of transport of the sheet by about 75 degrees to about 90 degrees. As shown in Figure 1 of *Hisajima*, the second guide 22 is concave in the wrong direction to effect the sheet accumulation of the claimed invention.

2) the first and second guides only contact the leading edge of the sheet. As shown in Figure 1 of *Hisajima*, the surface of the sheet is contacted by the guide plates 18 and 22.

3) a first single driven roller located adjacent to the end of the first guide and a second single driven roller spaced from the second guide. As shown in Figure 1 of *Hisajima*, there is no single driven roller after the first and second guide plates, but rather roller sets 42, 46 and 50, 54.

It is submitted that Claims 1, 2, and 4 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by *Hisajima* and should therefore be allowed.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hisajima* in view of US Patent No. 6,241,245 B1 (*Hollar*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1, and therefore includes all the features thereof. Thus, the arguments presented above relating to *Hisajima* are equally applicable to Claim 3. The segmented guide and roller of the claimed invention are used to support the sheet and prevent the force from the beam

strength of the sheet from scratching the sheet during the leading edge transition from the guide to the roller.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 3 is nonobvious over the cited references and should be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowability of Claims 5-7 is noted and appreciated. New Claim 8 is dependent from Claim 5 and thus is believed to be allowable subject matter. Since the 35 USC 112 rejection has been obviated, allowance of Claims 5-8 is respectfully requested.

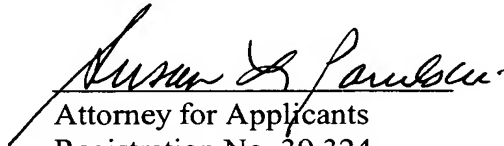
Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,


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